the intention of my Government that the entire mineral sand industry should as far as possible be owned and managed by the State. The existing private mineral concerns will on this basis be progressively brought under State ownership. Arrangements are well under way for the establishment of the Monazite Factory at Alwaye, which is jointly owned by my Government and the Central Government. The shyness of private capital is proving a great handicap to initiation of new industries. My Government are therefore making substantial contributions to the share-capital of deserving private industrial concerns. They are also providing financial accommodation by way of loans, wherever necessary and possible, to private concerns engaged in the production of essential commodities.

12. The Cottage Industries Committee constituted to report upon the possibilities of developing the cottage industries of the State has forwarded an interim report. My Government are examining the committee's proposals. It is their intention to implement the proposals as far as practicable and with the least possible delay. My Government are also paying due attention to the development of industrial research. Shark Liver Oil is to be produced on a commercial scale and a Board of Management has been constituted. Research in Tapioca is to be developed—in stations to be opened in Thiruvalla and Mulloorkara. The distillation of essential oils from indigenous raw materials like lemon grass, for which there is great demand in the world market, has already engaged my Government's attention. A pilot plant will soon be installed for operation of a scheme which they have under consideration.

ELECTRICITY

13. The supply of cheap power is one of the essential conditions for the industrial development of any country. My Government have under execution three major hydro-electrtc schemes—the Pallivasal hydro-electric project, the Sengulam hydro-electric project, and the Poringalkuthu hydro-electric project. Progress on all these works is being steadily maintained. A capital expenditure of Rs. 175 lakhs is anticipated on the entire power system during the current year and the total capital outlay on the works by the end of the year will be about Rs. 970 lakhs.

COMMUNICATIONS

14. My Government have been making liberal grants for the improvement of the State's road system. The main highways are being provided with special dustless surfacing. This will be facilitated by contributions from the Municipalities and village organisations, the State Transport Department, and private bus and lorry operators.

15. The village and ryots roads which have come into existence in a haphazard manner will be brought into a well-planned development scheme. This scheme will be worked out on the basis of two five-year plans. A Village Road Development Fund has been created for this purpose.

16. A new major arterial road connecting Kumili with Devicolam will be opened for vehicular traffic in the ensuing year. Most of the work has already been completed. The road traverses the extensive cardamom areas of the High Range and opens up a vast area of cultivable land. It links up the two Hill stations of Munnar and Peermade, and is of the greatest importance for the economic development of the hitherto inaccessible regions of the High Range.

LAND POLICY

17. My Government have had under consideration for some time past the question of re-orientating the land policy of the State and the system of land tenures.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly